



Your legacy: The end of animal cruelty

How to leave a gift in your will to
Humane World for Animals UK.



**Humane
World for
Animals™**

Formerly called Humane Society International



Dear friend, thank you so much for requesting our guide, and for thinking of leaving a legacy gift in your will to Humane World for Animals UK (formerly called Humane Society International/UK).

Like you, I am a lifelong animal lover and passionate about animal welfare. I joined Humane World because I have seen our incredible achievements in saving the lives of animals, and changing laws to end animal cruelty, all over the world. Achievements that, of course, are only made possible thanks to the generosity and kindness of supporters like you.

Together we have achieved so much change. We have been able to close down dog meat farms across East Asia, saving the lives of thousands of dogs, and we have been there to rescue animals all over the world when disasters have struck.

Right here in the UK we continue to influence governments to introduce legislation to protect animals, and to inspire companies to end cruel practices such as the selling of fur. We are now called Humane World for Animals, but rest assured, our unwavering dedication to ending animal cruelty remains as strong as it has been for the past 70 years.

There is much more impact that I know, together, we can have. The ending of the dog meat trade, vicious trophy hunting and the inhumane caging of animals on farms are all within reach. But I also know that animals will always need people like us to stand up for them, to be their voice and to protect them. Even when we are no longer here.

The gifts our supporters leave in their wills help free animals from pain and cruelty. They allow us take on big, global battles to change laws and entire industries to eliminate suffering for good.

Thank you so much for thinking about protecting animals in this very special way, and for all that you do to support our work.

Nick

Nick Jones
Executive Director,
Humane World for Animals UK

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The following pages of this guide are provided solely as a general source of information and are intended for informational purposes only, and should not be construed or relied upon, under any circumstances, by implication or otherwise, as legal, tax or other professional advice. The information contained in the following pages is not a substitute for independent verification of the information. You should consult your legal, tax or other relevant professional to obtain advice with respect to any questions or concerns you may have regarding making your will. If legal or tax advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a professional should be sought. Only your individual adviser can provide assurances that the information contained herein, and your interpretation of it, is applicable or appropriate to your particular situation.



About Humane World for Animals UK

Humane World for Animals UK is one of the world's leading animal protection charities. Formerly called Humane Society International/UK, we are one of the only international animal protection charities working across the globe to end cruelty to all animals.

We work tirelessly to confront and end all forms of animal cruelty.

You can read more about our impact, and the changes we have made to the lives of animals worldwide, on pages 6 and 7 of this guide.

With your help, we will continue to end animal cruelty long into the future. We will never stop campaigning for a kinder world for animals and will always be there to ensure their protections are defended.

Thank you so much for your support, and for helping to build a safer and more humane future for animals everywhere.

With your help, we will continue to end animal cruelty long into the future.

At Humane World UK we work to:



End the dog meat trade across East Asia.



End fur farming and ban the sale of fur for good.



Rescue animals from disasters.



End factory farming, including the cruel caging of animals.



Accelerate the replacement of animal tests with animal-free methods.



Protect wildlife and end trophy hunting.

Our global impact for animals

Thanks to supporters like you, Humane World for Animals (formerly called Humane Society International) has been able to help achieve dramatic change for animals around the world. Below are just some of the advances your support has made possible.

2013 EU bans sale of animal-tested cosmetics

The EU became the world's largest cruelty-free market for cosmetics after banning the sale of all newly animal tested cosmetic products. Humane World for Animals has campaigned for many years on this issue, and since 2013 we have successfully lobbied many more countries to ban cosmetics testing on animals.



2016 Canada begins phasing out battery cages

As a result of negotiations between major companies, animal charities such as Humane World for Animals Canada and the government, Canadian egg farmers agreed to transition away from battery-caged eggs. Canadian egg production is expected to be 100% cage-free by 2036, but many major companies are getting there sooner.



2014 India prohibits cosmetics testing and shark finning

This double victory was a huge step in the global fight to end shark finning – an inhumane practice where fishermen catch sharks, cut off their fins for sale and throw the still-living animals back into the water.



2018 Indonesian government pledges action to end dog meat trade

Thanks to pressure from the Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition, of which Humane World for Animals is a founding member, the Indonesian government pledged action to end the dog meat trade. We continue to work closely with our partners to ensure that the government delivers on its commitment.





2022
Landmark UK legislation for animals



In 2022, Humane World UK celebrated the passing into law of the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act. This act reinstates legal recognition of animal sentience in the UK and requires the government to show Parliament how it has taken animal welfare into account when making and implementing new laws.

2023 History made as South Korea pledges to end the dog meat industry

In a truly historic announcement, the South Korean government announced a bill to ban the country's dog meat industry. There will be a three-year phaseout period to allow farmers to close their businesses, and the ban will come into effect in 2027. Humane World for Animals South Korea has campaigned for over a decade for this ban and since 2015 has been helping dog farmers across the country to transition to other livelihoods.

2022 Emergency response in Ukraine

In response to the conflict in Ukraine, Humane World for Animals Europe continues to provide lifesaving aid to both animals inside the country and displaced people who have fled to neighbouring countries with their pets. Since the conflict began we have helped to send 1,400 tons of pet food and supplies to impacted areas in Ukraine, and helped more than 315,000 animals.



2024 Major brands continue to go fur-free

Max Mara became the latest major brand to end its sale of fur products in the UK. We continue to successfully campaign for this change, and many major brands (such as Harvey Nichols, Prada, Gucci and Canada Goose) have gone fur-free in recent years.



The future?

Your support has helped us achieve so much for animals. But there is much more to be done. We want to see a fur-free Britain, a worldwide trophy hunting ban and the end of the dog meat trade for good. Will you consider a gift in your will to Humane World for Animals UK, and help end cruelty wherever we find it in the future?



How to make a will

Making or updating your will is simple and straightforward. We always recommend preparing your will through a solicitor, to ensure it is accurate, legally binding and beneficial to the people, causes and animals you care about.

If you need a solicitor, information on how to find one (including one who can make your will for free) is on Page 14 of this guide.

Before visiting a solicitor, it's best to do some brief preparation. This can save you time and money when making your will. Just follow these seven steps:

Step one **Make a list of what you own** **(assets)**

Firstly, you should work out what your estate is worth. Add up the value of your assets such as your home, what you have

in your bank or savings accounts and any significant possessions.

Step two **Make a list of what you owe** **(liabilities)**

After you have worked out your assets, calculate any outstanding debts, such as mortgages, credit cards and loans, and deduct them from the total value of your assets. What is left over is the overall value of your estate.

We have provided an assets and liabilities checklist to help you with these two steps, which you can find on Page 10.

Step three

Decide who you would like to benefit

Make a list of the people and organisations you would like to benefit and work out how you would like to divide your estate between them. Information on the different types of gifts you can leave in your will is on Page 11.

Step four

Choose your executors

Executors are the individuals responsible for distributing your estate. You can appoint between one and four executors, and these can be family members, friends or a solicitor. If you would like to appoint family members or friends as executors, it is advised that you ask them before making your will.



Step five

Book an appointment with a solicitor

After completing the above four steps, you're ready to meet with a solicitor. For advice on how to find one, turn to Page 14.

Step six

Sign your will

After making your will, you need to sign and date it in the presence of two independent witnesses. It is important to note that your witnesses can't be people who will benefit from your will or who are married to people who will benefit.

Step seven

Store your will safely

Your solicitor or bank can advise you how to store your will securely. Wherever you choose to store it, it is important that you let your executors know where your will is kept.



Assets and liabilities checklist

Before making an appointment with a solicitor to make or update your will, it is best to work out the value of your estate. Your estate is made up of your assets (everything you own, such as property, valuables and savings/investments) minus your liabilities (everything you owe, such as outstanding mortgage and credit card debt).

Your solicitor will ask for this information as part of the will-making process. We've created the below checklist to help you prepare.

Everything I Own (Assets)

Property	
Furniture/Antiques	
Jewellery/Valuables	
Car/Motorbike	
Bank Accounts	
Building Society Accounts	
Savings Accounts/ISAs	
Shares/Investments	
Life Assurance/Insurance	
Other Possessions	
Total	

Everything I Owe (Liabilities)

Mortgage Outstanding	
Overdrafts	
Credit Card Debt	
Loans	
Other Debt	
Total	
Total Assets	
Minus Total Liabilities	
Total Estate	



Types of gift

There are a few ways you can leave gifts in your will (also known as legacies or bequests) to the people, organisations and charities that you care about. Your solicitor will be able to talk you through the most suitable options.

Residuary gift

This is when a person leaves a set percentage of their estate after all other gifts have been made, and debts such as funeral expenses and solicitors fees have been paid. Dividing your estate into percentages means you're less likely to need to update your will in the future, as the percentage remains unchanged if the value of your estate rises or falls. For this reason, many people choose to leave charitable legacies as a residuary gift.

Cash gift

This is a specific sum of money, also known as a pecuniary gift. It is worth considering that cash gifts lose value over time owing to the effects of inflation, so do bear this in mind when working out the size of these types of gifts.

Specific gift

This is a gift of a particular item, for example a house, a piece of furniture or an item of jewellery. It's important that these types of gift are described precisely in your will, so that your executors can easily identify them and gift them in line with your wishes.

“I’ve loved and looked after animals my entire life”

For many of our supporters, a legacy gift is a way of continuing a lifetime of love for animals. We spoke to June, one of our dedicated supporters, about why she decided to leave a gift in her will to Humane World for Animals UK.

“I’ve loved and looked after animals my entire life. I brought my daughters up to love animals, and we’ve looked after all sorts—cats, rabbits, horses and even ducks! I have my dog Fluff (pictured) now; he’s a rescue dog from near where I live.

“I was going to adopt a dog, Scooby, who your team rescued from South Korea, but sadly he had a heart problem that meant he died suddenly before he was ready to travel to the UK. They sent me a video after the rescue, and I saw how much love they gave him and how well he was cared for before he died.



“I support lots of animal charities, but Humane World for Animals is my top one. They go all over the world, not just one area. They actually go in and rescue the animals, and get the job done respectfully by helping people like dog meat farmers find a new way of making a living. I’m always telling my friends about their work and that they don’t just rescue dogs, they help all animals.

“I’ve left a gift in my will to Humane World for Animals so that they can continue to do the job in the future that they’re doing so well now.

“I hope that in my lifetime we will see the end of eating dog and cat meat. The younger generation are changing things. I hope that the gift I’m leaving will be able to help rescue other animals and free them from pain.”

June Carmichael

Humane World for Animals UK supporter



How to leave a gift to Humane World for Animals UK

Thank you so much for considering a gift in your will. Each year, many of our supporters leave legacy gifts, which help end animal cruelty and suffering all over the world. Our work would not be possible without them.

Leaving a legacy gift to support our work is very straightforward. All you need is:

Our official charity name:

Humane World for Animals UK

Our address:

5 Underwood Street, London N1 7LY

Our registered charity number: **1098925**

We recommend the following wording for your will clause, for you to discuss with your solicitor:

Residuary gift

"I leave x% to Humane World for Animals UK, 5 Underwood Street, London N1 7LY, Registered Charity Number 1098925, for the general purposes of the charity"

Cash gift

"I leave £x to Humane World for Animals UK, 5 Underwood Street, London N1 7LY, Registered Charity Number 1098925, for the general purposes of the charity"

Restricted gifts

In any will clause, you are free to specify areas of our work you would like your gift to benefit. If this is something you are interested in, please do contact us first, so we can talk you through how best to word your gift to ensure your wishes are delivered. You can get in touch using the contact details on Page 15.



Change of Name

Before February 2025 Humane World for Animals UK was formerly called Humane Society International/UK (HSI/UK). If you have already included a gift in your Will referencing our previous name, please know that you do not have to update your will to change this. Please be assured that Humane World for Animals UK will safely receive all legacy gifts and bequests made to our previous charity name.



Make a will for free

Since you are a dedicated supporter of Humane World for Animals, we can help find you a solicitor to make or update your will for free through our friends at the National Free Wills Network.



The National Free Wills Network has over 1,000 participating solicitors and covers all parts of the UK. All solicitors are Law Society accredited, so you can be sure that you are in safe hands. There is no obligation to leave a gift to charity when making your will, although we would be delighted if this is something you are considering.

For more information, and to find a participating solicitor in your local area, please get in touch with us using the contact details on Page 15.

Finding a local solicitor

You can find a local will-making solicitor via the Law Society website. Costs will vary by solicitor, but any solicitor you contact should make these costs clear before you begin.

England and Wales

[lawsociety.org.uk](https://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

0870 606 2555

Scotland

[lawscot.org.uk](https://www.lawscot.org.uk)

0131 226 7411

Northern Ireland

[lawsoc-ni.org](https://www.lawsoc-ni.org)

028 9023 1614

Isle of Man

[iomlawsociety.co.im](https://www.iomlawsociety.co.im)

01624 662910

Contact us

If you would like a friendly and confidential chat about anything mentioned in this guide, please get in touch with our legacy director, Adam West (pictured here with Lumi, rescued from a South Korean dog meat facility). Adam is here to help you with any questions you have about will-making and would be delighted to hear from you.

Please also contact Adam if you are interested in making or updating your will for free through our friends at the National Free Wills Network.

Contact details

Email: legacyUK@humaneworld.org

Telephone: 020 4548 1495

Keep us updated

Thank you so much for your interest in leaving a gift in your will to protect animals worldwide. If this is something that you intend to do, or have done already, please let us know. Knowing your intentions helps us to better plan how we can end animal cruelty in all forms, and helps us send you more relevant news about the work of Humane World for Animals.

Thank you for helping to build a more compassionate and humane world for animals!



Our mission

Together, we tackle the root causes
of animal cruelty and suffering to
create permanent change.



**Humane
World for
Animals™**

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